

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

3003 Moorpark Avenue
San Jose, California 95128



PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE **April 23, 2003**

In order to provide you with up-to-date information regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases and other public health issues, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department Information Office will issue Public Health Updates to notify you of any new developments. The following reflects the status of suspect SARS cases in Santa Clara County.

SARS

Santa Clara County Public Health Department officials have identified another suspect case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This individual is a 72-year-old female who traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam and extensively to other areas of Asia. She returned from her trip this past weekend. The female patient is hospitalized and is in fair condition. Specimens are being sent to the California Department of Health Services (DHS) for diagnostic testing. The follow reflects the numbers of cases reported from Santa Clara County:

Total number of reported suspect SARS cases	12
Number of suspect cases with an alternative diagnoses	5
Current number on record with the CA Department of Health Services	7
Probable SARS cases	3
(One case has tested positive for the coronavirus)	
Suspect SARS cases	4

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated the United States (U.S.) definition of SARS. U.S. cases are now classified as either suspect or probable as outlined by the following.

- Suspect Case: Respiratory illness of unknown etiology with onset since February 1, 2003 and the following criteria;
 - Travel with 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area* with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS OR close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with a person known to be a suspect or probable SARS case, AND
 - Measured temperature greater than 100.4 degrees F (greater than 38 degrees C) AND
 - One or more clinical findings of respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, hypoxia, or radiographic findings of either pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome)
- Probable Case: A suspect case with one of the following:
 - Radiographic evidence of pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome, OR
 - Autopsy findings consistent with respiratory distress syndrome without an identifiable cause

*Areas with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS: People's Republic of China (mainland China and Hong Kong); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; and Toronto, Canada.

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SARS information has been posted to the Public Health Department Web site: www.sccphd.org. The Public Health Information Line at 408.885.3980 is available to answer questions from Santa Clara County residents during regular business hours.